

Please amend claims 23 and 25.

23. (Amended) An in situ method of detecting invasion of neoplastic colorectal cells into the basement membrane of the laminapropria of a human comprising the steps of:

SUBD 1  
C1  
a) obtaining a sample of intestinal tissue which includes the basement membrane of the laminapropria;

b) contacting said sample with detectable oligonucleotide probes that hybridize to mRNA that encodes ST receptor protein for a time sufficient for said detectable oligonucleotide probes to hybridize to mRNA that encodes ST receptor protein present in cells of said sample;

c) removing detectable oligonucleotide probes which are not hybridized to mRNA that encodes ST receptor protein in cells of said sample; and

d) examining said sample to detect the presence of detectable oligonucleotide probes hybridized to mRNA that encodes ST receptor protein present in cells in the basement membrane of the laminapropria;

wherein the presence of mRNA that encodes ST receptor protein in cells in the basement membrane of the laminapropria indicates invasion of neoplastic colorectal cells into the basement membrane of the laminapropria of an individual.

SUBD 2  
C2  
25. (Amended) An in situ method of detecting invasion of neoplastic colorectal cells into the basement membrane of the laminapropria of a human comprising the steps of:

a) contacting a sample of intestinal tissue which includes the basement membrane of the laminapropria with detectable oligonucleotide probes that hybridize to mRNA that encodes ST